

**BY ORDER OF THE
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE**

AIR FORCE POLICY DIRECTIVE 46-1

1 SEPTEMBER 2011

Nursing

NURSING SERVICES



COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

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This Directive establishes Air Force Nursing Services Policy to ensure the highest standards of nursing care, nursing practice and professional performance are applied to all aspects of nursing care provided to eligible beneficiaries. This Directive applies to all Air Force military (active duty Air Force, Air Force Reserve, and Air National Guard), civil service Nursing Services personnel plus contractors, and other personnel attached or performing nursing activities. Refer recommended changes and questions about this publication to the Office of Primary Responsibility (OPR) using the Air Force Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*; route Air Force Forms 847 from the field through the appropriate functional's chain of command. Ensure that all records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication are maintained in accordance with AFMAN 33-363, *Management of Records*, and disposed of in accordance with the Air Force Records Disposition Schedule (RDS) located at <https://www.my.af.mil/afrims/afrims/afrims/rims.cfm>. Requests for policy clarification or waivers to this directive should be sent to AF/ SG1, 1780 AF Pentagon, Washington, DC 20330-1780 or AFSG.workflow@pentagon.af.mil.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

This document is substantially revised and must be completely reviewed.

This document represents a substantial revision of the previous Nursing Policy Directive due to the evolution of Nursing Services and governing bodies. Roles and responsibilities within Nursing Services have been deleted from this Air Force Policy Directive and moved to the corresponding instruction.

1. Policy. The Air Force Medical Service will:

- 1.1. Provide nursing services personnel to perform nursing activities in active duty medical treatment facilities, Air Force Reserve Medical Units, Air National Guard Medical Groups, Aeromedical Evacuation Squadrons, communities and deployed locations.
 - 1.2. Establish and evaluate programs that address nursing service management, force development, education and training, standards of care and practice, utilization, and the integration of nursing in medical readiness, operational support, and population health.
 - 1.3. Comply with professional nursing ethics and nursing standards of practice and care. This includes but is not limited to: national professional nursing organizations, state practice acts, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, The Joint Commission (formerly the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations), the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, and other appropriate federal, national and state agencies.
- 2.** The Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs serves as an agent of the Secretary and approves all policies concerning the Air Force Medical Service.
- 3.** The Air Force Surgeon General develops all policy concerning the Air Force Medical Service.
- 4.** This Directive applies to all nursing personnel who deliver and/or monitor health care services in active duty medical treatment facilities, Air Force Reserve Medical Units, Air National Guard Medical Groups, Aeromedical Evacuation Squadrons, communities, and deployed locations.

MICHAEL B. DONLEY
Secretary of the Air Force

Attachment 1**GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION*****References***

AFMAN 33-363, *Management of Records*, 1 March, 2008

Adopted Forms

AF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*, 22 September 2009

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AF—Air Force

AFMAN—Air Force Manual

AFRIMS—Air Force Records Information Management System

RDS—Records Disposition Schedule

SG—Surgeon General

Terms

Nursing— Nursing is the protection, promotion, and optimization of health and abilities, prevention of illness and injury, alleviation of suffering through the diagnosis and treatment of human response, and advocacy in the care of individuals, families, communities, and populations (American Nurses Association).

Nursing Care— Professional processes of assessment, diagnosis, planning, implementation, and evaluation based on the art and science of nursing to promote health, its recovery, or a peaceful and dignified death. This includes, but is not limited to assisting individuals, families, communities, and/or populations in understanding health needs and carrying out therapeutic plans and activities (The Joint Commission).

Nursing Services— One or more defined units, departments, programs, or services within the organization that is accountable for the delivery of nursing care to individuals, families, communities, and/or populations (The Joint Commission).

Standards of Nursing Practice— Authoritative statements that describe a competent level of nursing care as demonstrated by the critical thinking model known as the nursing process. The nursing process encompasses significant actions taken by registered nurses. It forms the foundation of the nurse's decision-making and includes the following components: Assessment, Diagnosis, Outcomes Identification, Planning, Implementation (includes Coordination of Care, Health Teaching and Health Promotion, Consultation, and Prescriptive Authority and Treatment), and Evaluation (American Nurses Association).